

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 9 to read as follows:

A1  
9. (Amended) The metallized substrate of Claim 5, wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene polymers, polycarbonates, polyamides, polyesters, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyphenylene sulphide, polyphenylene oxide, polyurethanes, polyimides, polyamideimides, polyetherimide, polysulphones, polyacetals, polystyrenes, thermosets, blends of the aforementioned polymers, and copolymers of the aforementioned polymers.

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 6, third full paragraph, amend the paragraph to read as follows:

A2  
--Especially in the case of ABS, low molecular weight substances may pass from the ABS substrate into the primer. As a result, relatively large – colloidal – copper complexes are unable to penetrate the primer at low bath loadings in the case of primers in accordance with EP-A 485 839. Through the addition of the strongly hydrophilic swelling substance, the primer is able to swell and relatively large – colloidal – copper complexes are able to penetrate into the primer.--

### IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract to read as follows. A separate abstract page is attached.

### --PRIMER FOR METALLIZING SUBSTRATE SURFACES

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A3  
A primer for the metallization of substrate surfaces by chemical reduction, comprising a) from about 3 to about 40% by weight of a film or matrix former, b) from about 0.1 to about 15% by weight of an additive having a molecular mass of 500 to 20,000, c) from about 0.1 to about 15% by weight of an ionic and/or colloidal

A3 metal or its organometallic covalent compound or complex compound with organic ligands, d) from about 0.5 to about 30% by weight of an organic and/or inorganic filler, e) from about 0.05 to about 5% by weight of a hydrophilic swelling material comprising finely divided particles containing silanol groups and/or partly modified silanol groups having a diameter of from 7 to 40 nm and a specific surface area of 50 to 380 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and f) from about 50 to about 90% by weight of organic solvents, in which all amounts by weight being based on the overall primer formulation, offers advantages at low bath loadings.--

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